AMPHIBIANS

Because most amphibians are secretive animals hidden away in their moisture-conserving crevices and lairs, commonly seen and heard only during breeding season, little is popularly known of their natural ways.

— S. Klein, 1983,
The Encyclopedia of North American Wildlife

AMPHIBIANS

Taxonomy in the amphibian checklist closely follows the standard field guide to eastern and central North American species by Conant and Collins (1991) and *Salamanders of the United States and Canada* (Petranka 1998). Species are listed alphabetically under each family. In some cases, a subspecies is designated. We followed this practice only when a single subspecies is known from the state and there is no question as to its identity. Common names follow Crother, *et al.* (2000).

The final revision of the checklist contains 19 amphibian species in 7 families. All 19 species are native. No Wisconsin amphibians are listed as endangered or threatened at the federal level. Blanchard's Cricket Frog (*Acris crepitans blanchardi*) is listed as endangered at the state level. No amphibians are listed as threatened at the state level.

Excluded Amphibian Species

We exclude Tremblay's Salamander (*Ambystoma tremblayi*) from the checklist. Vogt (1981) included an account for Tremblay's Salamander in his treatment of the Wisconsin herpetofauna, but this "species" is now known to be a triploid, unisexual variety of hybrid origin (between Jefferson's Salamander [*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*] and Blue-spotted Salamander [*Ambystoma laterale*]).

The Wisconsin Herpetological Literature

The literature dealing with the ecology, life history, status, history and distribution of Wisconsin's amphibians is scattered in a plethora of journals, bulletins, and sometimes-obscure reports. Extensive bibliographies providing access to this literature have been compiled (Dlutkowski, *et al.* 1987, Watermolen 1992), and a comprehensive bibliography is now available on the Milwaukee Public Museum's web site (**http://www.mpm.edu/**). Updating this bibliography is an on-going cooperative project.

Amphibian Survey and Atlas Efforts

Amphibians are the subjects of several on-going survey and atlas efforts. The *Wisconsin Herpetological Atlas Project* tracks the distributions of amphibians (and reptiles) in Wisconsin. The Milwaukee Public Museum, with the cooperative support of the DNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources, and The Nature Conservancy, initiated the Herpetological Atlas Project in 1986. The Herpetological Atlas is producing a computerized database of amphibian distribution, based on records obtained from museum collections, field surveys, literature, and field notes provided by volunteer observers throughout the state. Over 30,000 records have been received, and over 450 new county records have been confirmed since the project began. The data collected help in mapping species distributions, documenting rare species occurrences, analyzing population trends, examining habitat requirements, and planning

conservation priorities. Preliminary results of the Herpetological Atlas Project are presented in Casper (1996, 1998). For more information on the Herpetological Atlas Project, readers are encouraged to visit the project's web site (**http://www.mpm.edu/**).

The *Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey* is an on-going survey coordinated by the DNR. The survey was initiated in 1984, and relies heavily on volunteer efforts. Background information on the survey is included in Mossman and Hine (1985), and the history, analytical techniques, distribution maps, and trend results through 1995 are thoroughly summarized in Mossman, *et al.* (1998). Survey routes are distributed statewide, with a goal of two survey routes in each county. Routes consist of 10 sites that are monitored 3 times annually (8-30 April, 20 May - 5 June, and 1-15 July). Presence/absence of each species is determined for each site based on the breeding calls of male frogs. The relative number of calling individuals at each site ranks the abundance of each species. Survey data are statistically analyzed and a calling index to the route populations is calculated. These route populations are regressed over years to create a species population trend (Dhuey and Hay 1999).

Class Amphibia: Amphibians

Order Caudata: Salamanders

Family Salamandridae: Newts

Notophthalmus viridescens louisianensis . . Central Newt

Family Proteidae: Mudpuppies

Necturus maculosus maculosus . . Common Mudpuppy

Family Ambystomatidae: Mole Salamanders

Ambystoma laterale . . . . . Blue-spotted Salamander

Ambystoma maculatum . . . . . Spotted Salamander

Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum . . Eastern Tiger Salamander

Family Plethodontidae: Lungless Salamanders

Hemidactylium scutatum . . . . . Four-toed Salamander

Plethodon cinereus . . . . . Eastern Red-backed Salamander

Order Anura: Frogs

Family Bufonidae: Toads

Bufo americanus americanus . . . . Eastern American Toad

Family Hylidae: Treefrogs

SE *Acris crepitans blanchardi* . . . . . Blanchard's Cricket Frog

Pseudacris crucifer crucifer . . . . . Northern Spring Peeper

Pseudacris triseriata[7] . . . . . Chorus Frog

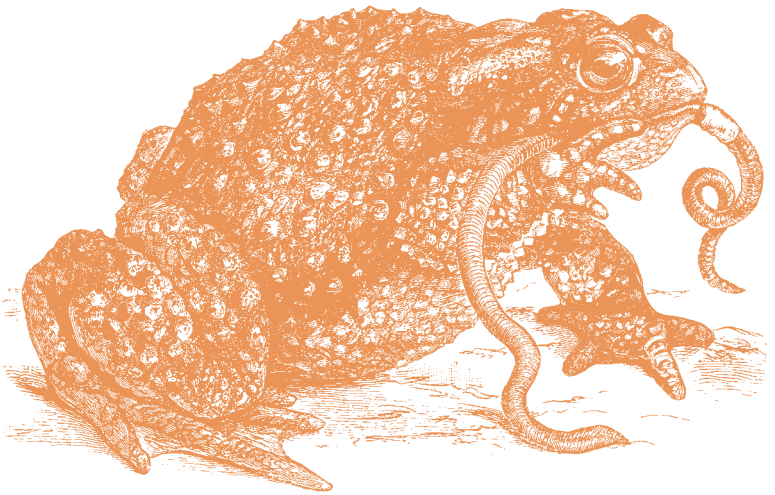
Hyla chrysoscelis . . . . . Cope's Gray Treefrog

Hyla versicolor . . . . . Gray Treefrog

[7] Elevation of the Western Chorus Frog (*P. t. triseriata*) and Boreal Chorus Frog (*P. t. maculata*) subspecies to full species status was proposed by Platz (1989). Both subspecies apparently occur in Wisconsin, but their ranges have not been well defined. Until additional work has been completed to clarify the identity of Wisconsin specimens, we have chosen to treat the two as subspecies of the Chorus Frog.

Family Ranidae: Ranids ("true" frogs)

Rana catesbeiana	American Bullfrog
Rana clamitans melanota	Northern Green Frog
Rana palustris	Pickerel Frog
Rana pipiens	Northern Leopard Frog
Rana septentrionalis	Mink Frog
Rana sylvatica	Wood Frog



Primary Amphibian References: Casper 1998, Mossman, *et al.* 1998, Casper 1996, Watermolen 1995, Conant and Collins 1991, Vogt 1981, Pentecost and Vogt 1976 (as well as references cited in Watermolen 1992 and Dlutkowski, *et al.* 1987).